road should be paid for by Government and that Government should also pay for the small bridge which was being erected on the 1st mile ; (4) that the blasting necessary to make the road 12 feet wide should be undertaken by the P. W. D ; (5) and that Government should allot Rs. 500 per mile per annum for the future upkeep of the road.

In regard to the Mundakayam-Rani road, which had been brought up at the 13th session of the Assembly, he understood that the Chief Engineer had been asked to submit an estimate. The matter was subsequently allowed to be dropped as no work on the road was done, although the need for it was admitted. He pointed out that it was necessary that the land should be surveyed and acquired at once, as the price of land was rising every year and any delay in acquiring the land would mean payment of a greater amount by Government in the shape of compensation charges. New settlers were also taking up and cultivating the land through which the road would have to go.

Dewan's reply.—The Member's representation will be considered.

VI. PUBLIC HEALTH.

(1) Town Improvement Committees.

94. Need for the appointment of non-officials as Presidents of Town Improvement Committees.

Mr. V. K. Govinda Pillai (Member, T. I. C., Neyyattinkara) said that, though the Government had declared it as their policy to appoint non-official presidents where suitable persons were available, it was not being given effect to as largely as was desirable. There were only three non-official Presidents at present out of 19 Presidents, and the Towns of Trivandrum, Quilon and Kottayam were still having officials as Presidents. It was derogatory to the prestige of the Trivandrum Town Improvement Committee, the premier Municipality in the State, that it should have as its President an officer of the Tahsildar's grade. The appointment of Tahsildars as *ex-officio* presidents of Town Improvement Committees in mofussil towns was also not to the advantage of those local bodies, as they could not, amidst their multifarious duties, devote the required time or attention which the affairs of the Committee demanded. It would not be difficult to find proper persons to perform the duties of the President more satisfactorily. Non-official presidents should, therefore, be appointed in as many towns as possible.

Dewan's reply.—When the new Municipal Bill becomes law, there will be a larger number of non-official Presidents.

95. Bathing and washing conveniences for the town of Nagercoil.

Mr. D. C. Joseph (Member, T. I. C., Nagercoil) represented that, with the exception of a few tanks which were not open to all classes there were very few bathing tanks for the town of Nagercoil. The bulk of the population resorted to irrigation tanks for bathing, but they were overgrown with weeds and were unfit for bathing purposes. Being irrigation tanks, they were not under the control of the Town Improvement Committee. In order to provide better bathing conveniences for the town, the Member suggested that at least five irrigation tanks within the Municipal limits be each divided by bunds into two ; the one for irrigation and the other for bathing purposes, and bathing ghats constructed all round the portion set apart for bathing. The work might be spread over three or four years, if it could not be undertaken in one year.

Dewan's reply.—Noted.

96. Need for increasing the grant to the Town Improvement Committee, Shencottah, to effect certain public improvements.

Mr. S. Kuttalalingom Pillai (Member, T. I. C., Shencottah) represented that the balance of the Town Fund left after defraying the expenses of sweeping and lighting the town was so small that many improvements necessary for the sanitation of the

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

town had to be put off from year to year. Many of the houses had no backyards and even the few that had backyards had no access to the adjoining streets. Consequently, sewage water, instead of flowing out, collected in pools and rendered the houses insanitary for about five months of the year from Dhanu onwards. It was during those months that cholera used to break out in the town and spread with disastrous results. The Member, therefore, requested that the Government might construct masonry drains in all the streets to allow a free flow of sewage water and have cess pools built to receive all the sewage water till it was removed later on.

Another crying need of the town was a copious supply of pure drinking water, the scarcity of which was felt for five months from Dhanu. The two streams and the wells would dry up, followed sometimes by the spread of epidemics. The Member, therefore, requested that more wells might be sunk for supplying drinking water and one tank for bathing purposes.

Dewan's reply.—Noted.

97. Condition of the town of Kayankulam.

The Rev. Fr. A. J. Michael (Member, T. I. C., Kayankulam) made the following suggestions for the improvement of the Kayankulam town:—

1. that masonry drains be built on either side of the Kayankulam bazaar road to take away the rain water;

2. that a boat basin be provided at the bazaar landing;

3. that, as the market, which was held on a site taken on lease for Rs. 600 per annum, was a drain on the resources of the Committee, it should be either allowed to be held in the bazaar near the Iron Bridge and a deviation road constructed westwards from the fish market bridge, or the Government site applied for by the Committee and now leased on *kuthagapattam* should be handed over to the Committee for holding the market;

4. that the local dispensary should be converted into a hospital, as the number of patients was steadily on the increase; and

5. that the road from Kayankulam to Nangiarkulangara should be gravelled.

Dewan's reply.—Noted.

98. Need for improved sanitation in the town of Alleppey.

Mr. M. K. Ananthasiva Iyer (Member, T. I. C., Alleppey) thanked the Government for the timely and efficient arrangements made for the supply of kerosine oil to the *punja* cultivators and for relieving the food situation throughout the State.

Proceeding to his subject, he said that the sanitation of the town of Alleppey depended upon the efficient management of the Municipal institution, proper medical aid to the inhabitants, removal of some permanent nuisances and an abundant supply of pure water. In regard to the first point, *viz.*, efficient management of the Municipal institution, the Member suggested that the Vice-President should be invested with some powers in addition to those conferred upon him by the Towns Conservancy and Improvement Regulation. He suggested that the work of the Committee might be divided under two heads, *viz.*, office work which should be left in the hands of the President ; and the out-door work which should be transferred to the Vice-President.

Dewan.—It is competent to the President to delegate any of his powers to the Vice-President. So far as the Government are concerned, they will have no objection to sanction any recommendation of the Committee in this respect, provided they are allowed by law.

The Member continued and said that, as regards medical aid, the local District Hospital was situated in the southwest corner of the town, while the eastern portion of the town was more thickly populated and growing in importance commercially and otherwise. The majority of the public institutions and private centres of

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly